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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

/069 W
---------- 078659
R 071505Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9469
INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 5051

EO 11652 NA
TAGS PINT, GR
SUBJ: PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER

1. SUMMARY. PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED ON JULY 4 FOR THREE MONTHS. DURING THIS SUMMER ADJOURNMENT, LEGISLATIVE WORK WILL BE CONTINUED BY THREE SESSIONS OF THE "MINI" PARLIAMENT CONSISTING OF SEPARATE SECTIONS OF SIXTY DEPUTIES EACH. PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT PAPACONSTANTINOU DURING HIS END OF THE SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE CATALOGUED THE UNPRECEDENTED VOLUME OF LEGISLATION ADOPTED BY THE VOULI AND SINGED OUT THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW CONSTI-TUTION AS ITS MOST NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 4 GREECE'S 300 LEGISLATORS SET DOWN THEIR LABORS FOR A THREE-MONTH SUMMER BREAK. PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT PAPACONSTANTINOU, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THE NEXT DAY, LAUDED THE UNPRECEDENTED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL DEPUTIES IN THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND THEIR BROAD COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. PAPACONSTANTINOU ENUMERATED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT WHICH INCLUDED ADOTPION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION, 12 RESOLUTIONS AND 92 LAWS. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT A DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENT DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WILL BE ORGANIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BROADENING RELATIONS WITH
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FOREIGN PARLIAMENTS.

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3. LEGISLATIVE WORK DURING THE SUMMER WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THREE SEPARATE SESSIONS OF A "RUMP" PARLIAMENT: JULY 7- AUGUST 6, AUGUST 7- SEPTEMBER 6, AND SEPT 7 - OCTOBER 7, WHEN THE PLENARY WILL RESUME. THREE SECTIONS OF 60 DEPUTIES EACH (PLUS 30 ALTERNATES) WILL CHANGE WITH EACH SESSION AND WILL BE APPORTIONED ON THE BASIS OF PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE PARLIAMENT, VIZ. NEW DEMOCRACY 43 DEPUTIES, CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES 12, PASOK 3 AND UNITED LEFT 2. THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTIONS WILL CONVENE SEVERAL TIMES EACH WEEK AND WILL BE ENDOWED WITH FULL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY EXCEPT THAT WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED BY ARTICLE 72 OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION IE., LAWS DEALING WITH THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTERS, STATE OF SIEGE, AND VOTING THE NATIONAL BUDGET.

4. COMMENT: THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIRST POSTDICTATORSHIP PARLIAMET IN THIS SIX-MONTH SESSION JUST ENDED ARE INDEED IMPRESSIVE. A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT REMARKED DURING THE JULY 4 RECEPTION THAT THE LEGISLATIVE WORK OF THIS PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND THAT OPPOSITION DEPUTIES HAD, IN GENERAL, DEMONSTRATED UNPRECEDENTED RESTRAINT WHICH HE HOPED WOULD PERSIST IN FUTURE SESSIONS. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO BE CREDITED FOR ITS RECORD OF MAINTAINNG A FIRM GUIDING HAND ON THE PARLIAMENT'S DELIBERATIONS WITHOUT EXPLOITING ITS LARGE MAJORTY TO RAILROAD BILLS THROUGH, MAKING MINISTERS RADILY AVAILABLE FOR INTERPELLATION SESSIONS, AND ANSWERING PROMPTLY A VIRTUAL FLOOD OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750234-0375
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750779/aaaacshd.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS FOR THE SUMMER
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006